

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Lukasik, R.G. et al.) Group Art Unit Unknown
Appl. No. : Unknown)
Filed : Herewith)
For : ADJUSTABLE)
ACCUMULATOR)
Examiner : Unknown)

2/A
C7.
8/15/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please substitute the abstract on paragraph 78 with the attached replacement abstract on a replacement page.

REMARKS

Also attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the abstract. The attached version is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE." On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined and **[the deletions are bolded and bracketed]**.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 24 May 2001

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ADJUSTABLE ACCUMULATOR

Abstract of the Disclosure

A1

An adjustable accumulator for delivering gases, liquids, or solids from a reservoir comprises an inner tube and an outer tube. One tube fits into the other tube to be sealingly engaged and to create a chamber in the interior. The tubes can move relative to each other to vary the space of the interior chamber. Another embodiment of the adjustable accumulator comprises the outer tube having at least one drum. Optionally, the drum can have a plurality of partitions that separate the drum into drum compartments. The volume of chemical retainment by the adjustable accumulator is varied by varying the amount of the interior of the outer tube that can be in fluid communication with the inner tube. An adjustable accumulator can be used to deliver various amounts of vaporizable germicide to different sizes of sterilization chamber by adjusting the cumulative volume of the central chamber and outside compartments.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Abstract:

Paragraph 78 has been amended as follows:

[0078] **An adjustable accumulator for delivering gases, liquids, or solids from a reservoir comprises an inner tube and a outer tube. One tube fits into the other tube to be sealingly engaged and to create a chamber in the interior. The tubes can move relative to each other to vary the space of the interior chamber. Another embodiment of the adjustable accumulator comprises the outer tube having a drum having a plurality of partitions. The drum partitions separate the drum into drum compartments. The drum partitions fit tightly against the inner tube. The drum compartments are in fluid communication with the interior of the inner tube when the inner tube is positioned such that a bottom edge of the upper tube is aligned with any drum partition that is at a higher level than the drum compartment or is between two drum partitions which form the drum compartment. The adjustable accumulator can be used to deliver vaporizable germicides to a sterilization chamber. A single adjustable accumulator can be used to deliver various amounts of vaporizable germicide to different sizes of sterilization chamber by adjusting the cumulative volume of the central chamber and outside compartments.]**

An adjustable accumulator for delivering gases, liquids, or solids from a reservoir comprises an inner tube and an outer tube. One tube fits into the other tube to be sealingly engaged and to create a chamber in the interior. The tubes can move relative to each other to vary the space of the interior chamber. Another embodiment of the adjustable accumulator comprises the outer tube having at least one drum. Optionally, the drum can have a plurality of partitions that separate the drum into drum compartments. The volume of chemical retainment by the adjustable accumulator is varied by varying the amount of the interior of the outer tube that can be in fluid communication with the inner tube. An adjustable accumulator can be used to deliver various amounts of vaporizable germicide to different sizes of sterilization chamber by adjusting the cumulative volume of the central chamber and outside compartments.